COPY SECRET ANNEX 17

September 24, 1947.

116 V

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have received your letter of September 16, 1947 with reference to the proposed informal review to be made by our two governments of our po[illegible]ies in the Near and Middle East, and have noted that Mr. [illegible]vin feels that valuable time would be lost and nothing much gained by holding the initial talks on a purely military level.

In general we are prepared to accept Mr. Bevin's suggestion of having the initial talks cover both the political and military fields. We feel sure that these talks can be arranged in such a manner that tentative exchanges of political views could take place almost simultaneously with discussions among the military in order that there may evolve a synchronization of ideas. Following these exchanges it would be extremely helpful if the recommendations resulting from these discussions could later be reviewed by Mr. Marshall and Mr. Bevin.

I should appreciate your passing these views on to Mr. Bevin along with the further statement that we fully agree with him that the utmost secrecy should be observed regarding these proposed discussions. Needless to say, I am happy to know that you will lead the British side in the initial talks.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Lovett

The Right Honorable
The Lord Inverchapel, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
British Embassy,

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NEA:LWHenderson
9/23/47

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